

A SERMON

Preached in the

Cathedral-Church

O F

WORCESTER.

A T

The Lent A M I Z E , April 7th. 1688.

B Y

DANIEL KENRICK, Master of Arts, and Vicar

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KEMSEY

I N

WORCESTERSHIRE

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. y m o r s i b o l l e l e t t i c h

Hadst thou been born I could th' O dinary: bib verum I rebatur
cum Nisi quod ad hoc illud fecit Et ut regnare non
sunt nisi regnare possunt I wish'd for a mortal minde
to be born than us I did. And what
is it worth to have a mortal minde A mortal man
is not worth a mortal minde

To the Right Worshipful, Sir Walter Kirkham Blount,
of Soddington, Barroner.

SIR,

If the Honour conferr'd upon me, in selecting me particularly from my Brethren, for the Preaching of this Sermon, were not a sufficient Reason for the present Dedication, yet the likeness of the Subject to your Virtues, would make the Discourse tend naturally towards you : For it's chief import is concerning those best Qualifications, which are your great Ornaments (viz.) Religion and Loyalty. And, tho' it may possibly want Cultivation, yet I'm sure 'tis not destitute of Charity and Honesty ; which alone will be prevalent enough to make it grateful to Sir Walter Blount, whose kind and upright Conversation has oblig'd all to whom it has extended ; It has created an extraordinary Love to your Person, where there has been a Disesteem for your Religion, and forc'd ev'n the prejudic'd Mobile to confess, that 'tis possible to be at once a Roman Catholick, and an Honest Man. I must confess, such has been the Rude Insolence ev'n of my Brethren, and those of my own Communion, towards me, upon my Preaching of this Sermon, that I may be judg'd by some to want rather a Regiment, than a private Person for my Patron ; and to lie under a high Obligation of my giving God Thanks, that there is the force of an active Power to obviate the Outrages of Passive Obedience. But Truth, which is it's own Defence, is able, when it only shines, like the Light which Converted St. Paul, to strike it's Enemies to the Earth ;

Epistle Dedicatory:

and as I never did: so with Gods help, I am sure I never shall want Courage to Act honestly. And therefore I will condemn their Frowns and their Threatnings; and more especially because, Sir, I am under the Influence of such a Patron, who, like your Royal Master, never dis-regarded your Friends, nor deserted your Servants; and whose Countenance alone, like that of Cæsar to his Soldiers, is able to inspire an undaunted Resolution into him who is, Sir,

Your very Faithful,

and Humble Servant,

Daniel Kenrick.

R.O.M. 13. T. 1.

Let every Soul be Subject to the Higher Powers.

IF This Text, and its import were not sufficiently known, and almost every day Discours'd upon, I might minutely insist upon its Coherence and Explication; discourse more largely upon the Origine, and necessity of Governement; distinguish it into its kinds, and set down some Rules by which inferior Governours, both Ecclesiastical and Civil ought to go: But as this would not be altogether so pertinent to such an Audience, so would it rob me of that time, which I hope more usefully to employ in this place. And therefore without any such farther Disquisition, I shall briefly and generally Discourse,

- I. Of the Necessity of our Subjection to the Higher Powers: And then more particularly.
- II. Of the strict Obedience we owe to the higher Powers, or the Kings of this Realm.
- III. Of the Reasonableness of our Obedience to the King in the present juncture of Affairs.

I. There is a Necessity of Subjection to the higher Powers, because such a Subjection to Man is the Effect of our Obedience we owe to God. For God Almighty has so far secured our subjection to lawful higher Powers, that we are not only peremptorily forbidden to do 'em Violence,

Violence, or to speak Evil of 'em ; but we have Injunctions moreover from Heaven, not so much as to have a disrespectful thought of 'em, and not to Curse them even in our private Resentments. And indeed, since the Higher Powers are constituted by God's Designation, and subjected immediately to the Great Creatour, it will not appear reasonable for any Man by Rebellion, to endeavour the subjection of God's immediate Minister, and to pull down beneath our selves, what Heaven has set up next to its Divine Majesty.

And tho' perhaps a Supreme Power can shew no just Grounds for some of it's actions, yet the heighth of the Seat, in which 'tis enthron'd by God Almighty, priviledges it from being call'd to an account for such actions by any of its Subjects. And therefore David, after all his injuries to Uriah, saith, Against thee only have I sinned, and done this evil in thy Sight. And this he says, because God-Almighty, who was only above him, had a Rightful Power alone of exacting a Punishment of him.

And this was a Duty men ow'd to God, not only before the Advent of our Saviour ; but since his coming 'tis an obligation upon them : For our Saviour, his Apostles, and the Primitive Christians taught it at once and practic'd it. Their Doctrine was absolute obedience to the Higher Powers, and their Menaces for rebellion and resistance, were no less than Threats of Damnation. And, moreover, that all future Christians should not think the Doctrine of Subjection Trivial, or Temporary, the Apostles submitted even to those higher Powers, who were foretold to be Persecutors of them and their Religion.

The Primitive Christians obey'd the Sentence of Death, even when they might have made a prevalent resistance, and Seal'd the horrid unlawfulness of shedding the Blood of Kings, by patiently permitting the Spilling of their own.

own. And therefore 'tis impossible, that a Rebel to his Prince should ever be a good Disciple to his Saviour, and that because he wants one of the great Vertues of Christianity, which is meekness of Spirit in subjection to the higher Powers. And therefore, by the way, we may remark, That when Rebellion is stirred up upon the account of Religion, Religion cannot be the true and just Ground, but only the pretended cause of such a Rebellion. And it thus frequently comes to pass, when the Ambitious States-man is defeated of his extravagant aims, either by his own ill menage of his affaires, or by the Wisdom of the Prince, he presently grows enrag'd and discontented, and being unable to satisfie his revenge, or retrieve his Interest but by Rebellion, or too proud to do it by a just Submission, he presently contrives how to make a Powerful disturbance in the Kingdom, and finds no way more likely to succeed, than a pretence of Religion. And thus like the Man who finding himself not able to Sleep, resolv'd his Neighbours should take as little rest as himself, which he effected by running about the Streets at Mid-night, and crying Fire; Thus, I say, the discontented and restless States-man, rouzes the unintelligent Rabble with a Clamour of Religion, and half Frantick himself by some precedent disappointment, provokes the People to madness too. Religion is still the specious Cry, when alas all his Religion is either Pride, Interest, Revenge for lost Honour, or a wild humour for innovation. For 'tis utterly impossible that any Man can have a serious awe of his Maker, or a Love and Adoration for his Saviour, and yet, contrary to the Dictates of Heaven, and the Doctrine of the Blessed Jesus, make it his business to speak evil of Dignities, and disturb the Peace of the Kingdom in which he lives.

II. I Proceed to shew, that we owe a strict obedience
to:

to the Higher Powers of this Realm. Which is easily evinc'd, because they are such Powers which are Sovereign, and as they are absolutely Supreme, so ought we to be absolutely obedient.

The Kings of this Realm are said *crimine vacare*, because they owe an account of their Offences only to Heaven. They are said to be Laws to themselves; because, tho' in the Court of their own Consciences they are oblig'd to reign according to Law, yet they are absolv'd of all Laws in relation to an earthly Tribunal. The Kings of this Realm like those of the Jews may do whatsoever they think fit without Controlment from the Subject: For since they are Gods Lieutenants, can they be accountable to any but their Almighty Captain? Since they are Heads of the Common-wealth, what Member shall call them to Question? and since they have the sole power of the Sword, what hand can justly draw it without their Commission? The Kings of this Realm by virtue their Prerogatives, when Laws become sharp may soften them as they please, and when too cruel totally, *pro tempore*, suspend them. To the Prerogative we owe the calling of Parliaments, the pro-roguing of the good, and the dissolution of the bad. To the merciful exercize of the Prerogative we owe, that we our selves set every Man under his own Vine, and drink the waters of his own Cistern: For by the same undoubted Rights of Sovereignty, that the King in dispensing with the Laws shews the light of his Countenance to some of his Subjects, by the same he may, if he please, become a Cloud, and darkness to the rest: For by the Rights of Supremacy he may do all things without Controlment and Coetion. And altho' he at any time act, as he may do, contrary to the Laws, which himself, or his Ancestors have ratified, yet at the same time he Acts but according to the natural Laws and Rights

Rights of his Prerogative. And indeed if we consider the Natural Laws and Rights of Sovereignty, no Law can be made by a Sovereign, but there must be this tacit Reserve in't, viz. That it shall continue in force only so long as the Supreme Power thinks it necessary and convenient. And thus since the Kings of this Realm are Supreme, we ought strictly to pay them such an humble Obedience, as may be answerable to the greatness of their Power.

III. I come now to shew the reasonableness of our Obedience to the King in this present juncture of Affairs, that is, why we ought to comply, and cooperate with his Majesty in the repeal of the Tests and Penal Laws, and settling a lasting Indulgence in relation to Conscience, for Matters of meer Religion. And this I shall evince from these Eight following considerations.

1. From the Nature of Conscience as to Matters of meer Religion.
2. From the Genius of the Christian Religion, consider'd in its first Planting and Propagation.
3. From the ill consequence of Force, and the happy Effects of Clemency in affairs of Religion.
4. From the Allegiance and Gratitude we owe to His Majesty.
5. From the Liberty that is due to the Subject.
6. From the Consideration of the Interest of the Church.
7. From the Duties we owe to our Neighbours.
8. From the Kindness that is due to our Country.

First, From the Nature of Conscience, as to Matters of meer Religion.

Now Conscience in relation to Matters of meer Religion

gion in the present case, is a Conclusion of the reason-
ablenes or unreasonableness of our Belief drawn from
Scriptures. Thus when Men say they cannot believe
such a particular point of Divinity, or they must dissent
from any paricular way of Divine Worship; 'tis as
much as to say, that their understanding tells them,
that such a point of Faith, or such a way of Worship,
is not consentaneous to the Scripture. And when Men
say, they Believe and Worship according to their Con-
sciences, 'tis as much as to say, that they do both, be-
cause their understanding concludes, that they act ac-
cording to Gods Word. Thus Conscience in Matters
of Belief, is purely an act of the Soul, and since 'tis so,
'tis impossible it should be forc'd, and the impossibility of
it ought to supersede all endeavours towards it. Nay,
Conscience in relation to matters of Worship, which is
the effect only of the former, tho' you may obstruct its
publick Exercise, yet without converting Men into Sta-
tues, you can never hinder its private; and therefore
when the Peace of the Kingdom is concern'd, it ought
to be permitted.

Besides, let us consider, that every Soul is only the Em-
pire of Heaven, & God Almighty has set Conscience there,
as he has plac'd particular Kings in their respective King-
doms, & that is, as his sole Vice gerent. Whosoever there-
fore violently Fights against Conscience, fights against
Heaven, because he endeavours by undue means to subject
Gods immediate Minister. And tho' Conscience, like some
Heathen Kings, prove many times erroneous, because it
draws undue conclusions from Gods sacred word; yet it
is, like those Emperors, only answerable to Heaven for
such Errors. If it be here Objected, That men justly ought
to be punished, if they will not believe when Scripture
is rightly Interpreted: I answer, That I should have
thought, that the Eye of Faith is only the Gift of the
Lord

Lord of Light, and he only can incline the Heart who made it ; and therefore to pretend to bestow the Gift of God, is to usurp the Prerogative of Heaven. No, this Gift of God can no more be conferr'd by Penal Laws, and taking away Money, than that which *Simon* hop'd to enjoy by giving money ; Heaven never opens the understanding by unlocking the Chest : nor does it prick and wound the Conscience by mangling an Estate and ruining the possessor. But, some lay, Dissenters are not punish'd as religious and conscientious, but for their disobedience to the Laws of the Nation : But this Fallacy is so palpable, that 'tis easily solv'd by asking one plain Question, *viz.* Why were those Laws made ? And the answer must be, that the Spring which first mov'd their debate, was Religion, and the end for which they were made, was, that a religious Uniformity might be observ'd by all the Subjects of this Realm ; so that whosoever is punished by the force of those Laws, whose source is from, and whose ends are for Religion, is really punish'd as religious, and if he suffer not besides as an evil doer, his punishment is unjust. For in such a Punishment the Body suffers, because the Soul is not of the same stamp with that of his Neighbour ; and for the same reason a Man may be lash'd, because he has not as an agreeable a Face as those that liy'd around him : for neither his Face nor his Soul were of his own fashioning. Thus force is most improper in relation to Conscience, not only because it ought not, but because it cannot effect what is design'd by it. Force applyed for the Errors of the Mind, is like pulling a String for the untying of a Knot, your strels only serves to make it the fatter. By undue pressure, you shut the Box closer, which you design to open ; and too much heat contracts the thing it should dilate. And therefore since Violence has been ineffectual, the King is pleas'd to propose a softer method

for the Peace of his Subjects. Since Conscience can't conform to the Laws already made, His Majesty proposes Laws that may conform to the Conscience. And since a Kings Proposals are Virtually his Commands, every good Subject will not only be oblig'd by his reason, but by his allegiance, to contribute what in him lies towards the repealing of those Laws, which are so uneasie to the King, and the Burthen of the Kingdom.

Secondly, 'Twill appear reasonable to comply with His Majesty in the Repeal of the Test and Penal Laws, from the Genius of the Christian Religion, and that consider'd in its first planting or its propagation.

Our Saviour chose rather to make his approach to Mankind in the Form of a Servant, than of a Triumphant Monarch: and the reason may be assign'd. Because if the Christian religion had assaulted Men with violent Power, it had persuad'd them that it contain'd some secret weakness; and the World would have conjectur'd that That Piety was a meer imposture which required so much Tyranny for it's Establishment. By force, indeed, Christ might have Conquer'd, but not with that only have converted the World, and his rigour might have regulated the Body, but never put any influence upon the Soul. He therefore chose to plant his religion rather by Doctrine, than by the Sword, by his own Meek Mouth, rather than by loud Clamours of War, and to give lie to those who were dead in Their Sins, and living innocently himself. And by this gentle Method as the Church was planted, so by the same only it thriv'd, it grew when it was moistened with the Blood of its Members, but fell when it self shed the Blood of Dissenters; it increas'd when its Votaries fell a Sacrifice to the Heathen Penal Statutes, but decay'd apace, when by virtue of her own Penal Laws she turn'd the Sacrifices, and the Ecclesiastick Ark that fail'd secure when

when storms were rais'd for ruin by Pagans Persecutors, was always wrack'd, and that without pity, when it self had rais'd the Hurricane for Persecution : For when all around cry Peace, Peace, a Lasting Peace, none scarcely will compassionate the defeat, if, in spite of all, a Man makes himself ready for Battle ; especially when by love & peace only as the Victory may, so it ought to be obtained. And indeed whosoever endeavours to get it by other means, are still suspected to be in the wrong, and all conclude that the best deciding Argument for what they profess, is only the sharp Sword which they draw.

And moreover, suppose the suffering Parties to be what you will, yet the Sanguinary Method must be unreasonable. For if they should be in the right, they suffer as Martyrs, and you are guilty of their Blood ; if in the wrong, your Violence makes them esteem their wrong just, and so they dye to go to Hell, who might have lived by a gentle way of Demonstration, have seen their Errors, and rile at last to Heaven. If then we consider the Genius of Christianity, we must not take up the Fests and Penal Laws, but the meekness of the Cross, to be the true followers of our Lord and Master ; For whosoever pretends otherwise to follow the Lamb, follows him only as a roaring Lyon, and endeavours to tear and devour that Flock which he dyed to protect.

But suppose, say some, that Men Blaspheme, have their Hands in Blood, Vitiate the Virgin, Ravish the Wife, and commit all Villany, and that out of Principles of Religion, should not Penal Laws be made and Executed against such ? I Answer, Yea, by all means, let all such be severely punish'd. He that sheds Mans Blood out of a Principle of Religion, by Man let his Blood be shed. Let the Sword cut off those who sin against the Unwritten Laws of God, and let the Darknes of Death be a Recompence for those who dare so Transgress against Natures apparent

apparent Light. But, in the mean time, let no Man forfeit his Head for the ~~Fraile~~ Error of His Brain, let no Mans Breath be stopp'd by Law, because he does not rightly open a Text in the Gospel, and since no man shall be Damag'd for his meer opinion in the next World, let him not be made miserable for it in this.

But for the Sake of Christ's Religion, must not Error be Penally punish'd, the false Religion chas'tis'd, and Anti-christ unfeated? I Answer, By the same Rule every Church must fall foul upon her Sister, and because she would think herself a *Rache*, not only conclude, but endeavour to make her Neighbour the Blear-ey'd *Leak*: For every particular one is apt to Stigmatize the rest by the Name of Antichrist, to declare it in the wrong, and avow it self only in the right; it thinks like some impious School-master, it thought to have the sole power of the Rod, and triumphantly above all others to be exempted from the Terror of the Lash. And so consequently the pulling down Antichrist, must dethrone Kings, depopulate Nations, and ruin the Christian World. If we pretend to be inspired with the true Genius of Christianity, let us not pretend to fear Fire and Pagot our selves, and at the same time heap Coals of Fire upon the Heads of our Brethren; let us not seem to dread the Rubrick of a Massacre to our own Persons, and at the same time take all imaginable care for the Slaughter of others; nor let us, lest Smithfield should be in a Blaze by Popery, set the whole Nation in a Flasse by Protestantcy. For this is, whilst we condemn the Crimson Dye in others, to wear the Bloody Colours our selves, and whilst we blame the Offender for not being as white as Snows tis at the same instant to put on the guilty Blush of the Scarlet. No, let the cool sedateness of primitive Christianity control the growing Heats of Sedition; instead of Halters, let us meditate only the gentle Bonds of Peace; instead of Im-prisoning

prisoning our Neighbours, let us put religious restraints upon our imperious desires, instead of Levyng Fines for Religions sake on Earth, let us by Acts of Love secure a Treasure in Heaven ; And let Charity be what it really ought to be, the true and a chief Test of the Christian Religion. Such was the Spirit of pure Christianity, when all Pride, Envy, and Interest were Sacrific'd to the Christian Peace ; Then, when St. Chrysostom would rather part with an Arch-Bishoprick, than ruin the Tranquillity of the Church, when one Father relinquish'd the See of *Constantinople*, to avoid an approaching division, when *Clemens Romanus* forsook the Wealth and Honour of the Chair of *Rome*, rather than foment arising Differences, when *Exile* was more Eligible with Peace, than shining greatness without it, when private interest and safety threw 'em selves away, like *Jonah*, to prevent a publick ruin, and when Christians like that Prophet were more ready to endure the storm themselves, than to maintain it, tho with their own security, to the Detriment of others.

Thirdly, 'Twill appear reasonable to comply with the King in the repeal of the Tests and Penal Laws, from the consideration of the ill consequence of force, and the happy Effects of Clemency in Matters of Religion.

1. We have known that the Fights for Religion were in the late time but so many Battels against it. Atheism and Schism sprang up with a greater Luxuriancy, and Faction grew double like an *Hydras*'s Head, by cutting off of the Conscientious. The force that has been us'd in former Ages against Persons for Conscience and meer Religion, hath been so sinistrously prevalent, as to shake Establish'd Kingdoms, to Degrade Royal Palaces into Recelles of Murtherers, and Convert Gods House of Prayer into a Den of Thieves. What confusion has not force for Religion introduc'd ? A Throne has been chang'd into

into a Scaffold, a Royal Court into a Slaughter-house, and the ignoble Shrub exulted into the place of the Heav'nly Cedar. Hath not the Veil of our Temples been Rent from the Top to the Bottom, our Churches render'd as poor as the Beggars which usually attid their Gates, and the Altar it self made a Sacrilegious Sacrifice? Our Mountains have been made to resemble ~~Canyon~~; each Field almost has been turn'd into an ~~Acre~~, and our Rivers like those of Egypt convert'd into Blood. Nor have the very Dead been spar'd, Graves have been rifled, Sepulchres despoli'd, and Tombs stripp'd and ruined, as if the deceased had been guilty of Ceremonies, because they were adorn'd with an Hatchion and a Monument. Else nor our Rocks resounded with the dying Groans of the Wounded? Have not our Housies Echo'd with Widdows sighs, and bereaved Parents Moans? And hath not ev'ry Pavement almoft flow'd with the Tears of the Weeping Virgin, and the distressed Orphan? And did not the Church of England expire with the loss and death of her Martyr'd Head? Nor hath Severity for matters of meer Religion had any good succels since the Restauration of his Late Majestie. For 'tis too well known that the Penal Laws destroy'd that very Unity and Uniformity which they were design'd to preserve; They drove whole Multitudes from that Church to which they should have drawn 'em, and the Excommunication from the Congregation very often prov'd an Extirpation out of the Kingdom. Nor can it be otherwise, for (as I intimated before) Divine Love is no more obtainable by force, than humane Affection: The Conscience, like Wax, grows still more stubborn by the coldness of its usage, and nothing can so well bend the Spirit of Man, as the soft Whispers of the Holy Ghost.

Since His Majesty therefore has been pleas'd to Grant an Indulgence, let us, like the good Samson, instead of the

the Corroborative Method will pour Oyl and Wine into the Wounds of our bleeding Neighbours; Is there not be the unfriendly Priest, or uncharitable Levite, to pass regadless by my Brethren, who like the Man going from Jerusalem to Jerico are fall'n among Thieves, stripp'd and left half dead? Nay let us have compassion on them, bind up their gaping Wounds, and instead of Lerving Money for their ruin, contribute a far greater Summ than the Samaritans Two pence for their recovery. This way our Blessed Saviour, this the Apostles, this the Primitive Christians took; by meekness and suffering for Religion, they won the Hearts of the World to it; they us'd no Sword but that of the Spirit, but brake the Flinty Hearts of the Heathen by the soft and downy Methods of the Gospel. Can we imagine that the way for our Brethren to hear our winning Arguments, is to banish 'em our Converstation, to give occasion of a Voluntary Exile that they may become good Subjects, and to exalt ourselves against them, that they may see our meeknes in Christ? No; the Bonds which bind the Dissenter serve too but to confirm his dissention: stripes, indeed, may soften his Flesh, but never mollifie his Spirit, and the Penal Laws, which molestly open his Purse, will serve but more closely to tye him up, and oblige him to stick to his opinion. The way to convice the Papist, that there is no Transubstantiation in the Eucharist, is not to force him to experience a fatal change in his Estate; the way to demonstrate that there is only a bare possibility for him of going to Heaven, is not to compel him to feel that 'tis impossible he should live upon Earth; nor is the tying him up from serving his King any good Method to staine, that he does not rightly worship his Maker. The light of the Spirit grew still more hot and zealous by being Dark-lantern'd in a Dungeon; the Goal that reduc'd the Non-conformist almost to rotteness, could ne-

ver yet mellow him into compliance; and the reduction of a Conventicler to a Morsel of Bread, never made his one, nor the less in love with the Barn.¹⁰ 'Tis not difference in, but the Penalties for opinion, that infringes the Christian Love and Charity: The Perlon suffering envies his Neighbour that lives at ease, hates the insulting Party, and murmurs against the Fountain of his pressure. For Love and Stripes are consistent to no Nature but of a Spaniel, and tho an irresistible force may procure quiet, yet it never can beget a lasting peace. Most men like Steel springs, tho they violently stand bent, yet they have a strong aptitude of coming into their places, like Bows they will break the string that crooks 'em, and will be humble no longer than the pressure of their Chaines make 'em so.

But now kindness smooths the Furrows which the Iron Tests and Penal Laws had deeply plowed, sweetens the Vinegar and Gall which harsh mulcts, fines and confiscations had generated, and wins so upon all those who have the least Generosity in their Natures, that they who would passively have dyed under an oppressor, will dye for him when he appears and becomes merciful. Clemency makes the Loyal Cement stick, which the roughness of severity would probably have fretted off; 'tis the great Elixir of a State, which must probably Transmute every Subject into the golden temper of Loyalty, and ferment the whole Nation into the decent Crisis of a willing obedience: For all true Sons of the Commonwealth must surely be pleased, when they perceive the King is not at all confin'd to one Party, that he has Blessings in store for more than one of his Children, that he will suffer no rapacious Extravagance in the Body Politick, to draw the whole Nutriment from the useful Members, but that Gods Vice-gerent is such, that, like God himself, with him there is no respect of Persons, but every one

one of evry profession that seareth God is accepted with him.

The fatal consequence of the contrary to this, no man can be ignorant of, but must know that oppressed Parties have grown closer by the weight of their Affliction, and their Stripes have been able to beat 'em into the solid consistence of a confederacy : For many Men, tho never so dastardly before, yet when pres'd and coop'd up, have been apt to turn again upon the Government, and when they have been run as it were to the Wall, they have thought it extreanly lawful to draw upon the adverse Party. Whereas give but their religious Zeal room enough, tho never so fiery, like Lightning in open Air, it does no harm, but stopp'd, it melts the obstructing Sword, and shatters the opposing Oak; and that current of Conscience, which at liberty calmly slides along, when 'tis once damn'd up, has grown impatient, ruin'd its Bars, and delug'd the adjoyning guiltless Neighbour-hood. So that as those undue restrictions have overturn'd Governments, their Relaxation is most likely to set 'em upright and preserve 'em : For if a Kingdom be compar'd to a Ship, we may conclude, that by taking in an over-ballast of Tents she may probably sink, and insisting too much on Penal Laws, she may easily over-set. And therefore let us comply with His Sacred Majesty in taking 'em away, and not let our Eyes be so dazled with the false Lustre of private Interest, as not to see, or our Faces so exalted with Pride, as to over-look in this our Day the things that belong to our Nations Peace. By such a Lenity Faction will be ruin'd ; and one mighty advantage that such a Liberty will moreover procure, is the Separation of the Sheep from the Goats, the distinction of the unconvertible Rebel from the Honest Man ; for when all have Liberty to separate like consistent Heterogeneous Bodies in a large quantity of Liquor, every one will take his natural place, and he

this runs; and yet are) whenceare Dissentors for Rebellion,
and who the well meaning Separatist for Conscience
sake: or, eids of yeare 1641. to be suspicio[n]ed of.

Fourthly, From the consideration of the Allegiance
and Gratitude we owe to His Majesty, we ought to com-
ply with the King in the Repeal of the Tests and Penal
laws. or, the M[ajesty] of God's commandments to consider
The King, who is the Supreme Law, is so gracious as
to endeavour to have all uneasie Laws made void: who-
soever therefore is so turbulent as to obstruct the Halcione-
days designed, may be esteemed i little less than doubly
rebellious; for he not only contradicts his Majesties incli-
nations, which should have with all Loyal Subjects the
force of Commands, but he likewise to far encroacheth
upon the Prerogative of Heaven it self, as to pursue the
supposed Transgressions of his Fellow Subjects, evn be-
yond gho Third and Fourth Generation, for of such an
extent is the designed severity of the Penal Laws and
Tests.

Nor let any man say, that he does nor obstruct his
Majestie's Inclination, because he takes up no Arms
against him: For if Adultery may be committed in the
Heart, Rebellion may be so too. You may Stab your
Prince with a Traitorous Thought; 'tis possible to be a
Regicide by the Two-edged Sword which proceeds out
of a Malicious Mouth; yea, a Smile and Complaisant
Carriage, at the hearing of a Seditious Discourse, is no
less then Treason in the sight of God-Almighty: And
to pray for the Destruction of my Prince, is not only to
Levy War upon Earth, but to endeavour to Arm Heaven
against him too, and to instruct the great Creator in
that Vengeance which is alone his Perogative, as well
how, and when, as where and of whom to take. And
thus he that even for Religions sake shoots out his Ar-
rows, even bitter Words, is as disobedient, as he that
throws

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throws a Javelin ; and to unsheathe a Pen against his Prince, makes a Man in common Sence a great Rebel, as he that draws his Sword. And therefore since to think write or speak disloyally upon the account of our Religion, is certainly resistance for it, and since resistance for it is equally as damning as the denial of it : Let every Man conclude, that he can't lift up even his Soul against his Prince, but 'tis in God's account the same thing as lifting up his Hand against him, and against Heaven it self too, for which, without sound Repentance, he must expect certain Damnation. Let none therefore by disloyal Zeal force up the ill Seeds of unquietness and dissatisfaction. Let none sit fullenly in close Cabals, to Hatch the Cockatrice of Jealousies and Fears ; nor let their Blood boyl up in Passion against the approaching Peace of their Fellow Subjects : For whosoever do so, will declare themselves to be no less than Antichristians, Friends of the Father of Lies, and to owe their Sanginary Cruelty to him only, who was a Murtherer from the Beginning.

But can we be disloyal, say some, if we are for keeping up the Laws and the Government by Law Establish'd ? Yes certainly, I answer, for you cannot be Loyal, unless you pay true Allegiance, which is not payed unless you obey your King, and that actively, in all those his commands and desires, which are not contradictory to the will of God. Now when the King desires you to send such men to Parliament, that may repeal the Penal Laws and Tests, He desires nothing but what is the Duty of every Free-holder to do ; who ought to choose such men that may as well repeal Old Laws that are become grievous, as contribute to the making of New Ones, that may be more easie. The Government by Law Establish'd, is so Establish'd *pro tempore*, for the *bene esse* of the Kingdom ; and when it ceases to be so, all

all ought to concur, that by another Law the grievous Statutes might be dis-established; for such Statutes are and ought to be mutable according to the various Face of Affairs. The same Remedy even for the same Distemper, will not alway prove effectual. I say therefore, to those who insist so much upon the Law, that 'tis possible that those Laws which were made for us, and please'd us one Year, may not be for us, but disatisfie us the next; and miserable surely would it be for this Kingdom, if the Supream Power were not upon all occasions a Dispensing one too.

I might urge against the Validity of the Test, that the Kings Concurrence being rather forc'd than voluntarily had, it must necessarily want the Essential Form of a Law. But 'tis certain, that such Acts as tend to lessen the Kings Prerogative, are adjudg'd void in themselves, tho' made by the Kings consent. And what can be more against His Prerogative, than these Tests which would deprive him of that Liberty, which even ev'ry Country Farmer enjoys, *viz.* the Power of choosing his Servants and his Counsellors? To let a Prince his Counsellors, is like assigning him Tutors, and little less than to pretend to Govern him. To preserve his person by such means, looks like its Imprisonment; and to exclude all but our selves from being rais'd by him, what is it but unjustly to defraud our honest English Neighbour, to exalt our selves against our Brethren, and Lavishly to impose upon the Royal Prerogative? If by former Acts of Parliament, none ought to have a Coercive Power over the Persons of the Kings of this Realm, what shall we think of those, who endeavour their utmost to make His Majesty do what they please? If to be adherent to the Kings Enemies, to give 'em aid and comfort, be Treason; what are thole Men who adhere to them whom His Majesty esteems his Enemies, aid 'em with invectives against

against those he accounts his Friends, and comfort them with the hopes and prospect of a sudden Revolution? By which they must tacitly own, that it is lawful to be Rebellious in present, that they may be Loyal in Reversion. If to remove the Kings Counsellors, to assign His Majesty Methods for the disposition of his Forces, of which he had the sole Supream Government, Command and Disposition, be like Overtures to Rebellion; the Test cannot be altogether guiltless, which aims at the same things. And whatsoever may be Harang'd, the contrary to abridge the Kings power in granting Commissions, and choosing his Counsellours, is no less than to cut short the Prerogative.

Fisibly, We ought to comply with his Majesty in the repeal of the Tests and Penal Laws, if we consider the Liberty of the Subject.

As we are Born English Men, we are born Subjects to the lawful Kings of this Realm, and being so, we are born to all the Priviledges of Subjects too, and have a right to all the Liberty and Property which Subjects in our stations are capable of, and no Act of Parliament for meer Religion ought to abridge us of those Native Rights, nor can any Law justly take 'em from us, till we forfeit 'em by the Transgression of the Laws of Nature, and those other primitive constitutions of the Government. For the Rights of the Members of Civil Government were unalterably such before the Faith of our Saviour was receiv'd in the World, and therefore unless God had revealed it to the contrary, 'tis impossible such rights should be destroyed by the Reception of our Saviours Religion, and there being no such Revelation, they must stand still inviolable; and so stand, that neither the Christian Religion should have any direct influence upon them, nor they on the contrary upon the Christians as such, since they originally were and ought

ought still to be harmlessly apart: And hence 'tis impossible for a Monk or a Jew to be a good Subject to a Christian King.

Now therefore, if Religion be so different from the Civil Government, as it ought not upon its own account to Rob the Members of such Government of their Civil Rights and Priviledges; 'twill then follow, That the Tests are very unreasonale, which upon the account of meer Religion, rob the Subjects of those Liberties and Rights: For my Right as an English Free holder enables me to choose whom I think fit to represent me in Parliament, but the Test disabiles me from it, and tells me, that unless I choose whom it self only thinks fit, 'twill make my choice vain. The Laws tell me, tho a Man can't be apparently Born to the Bar or Pulpit, yct he may be so Born to the Rights of Peage, and if not Born, he may be made a Peer, and either way have a sufficient Title to those Priviledges: But the Caſuſtical Test says, No Rights of Peage without Proſtanty, No Rights of Blood without rightly believing that our ſaviour þ moriany Seat in the Houle of Lords, if I adhred to this Chair of Rome. My Birth-right tells me, I'm Born in a Capacity of my Sovereign's Favour, of meriting Rewards from his Hand, and fo consequently in a poſſibility of advancing my Station: But the pre-deſtinatting Test faith gruffly and ſeverely, No; There is an irrefutabile Decree of Reprobaſon gone out againſt you, Red Letters have certainly mark'd you for bloody Perdition in this World; and deprives the Papist even of Ability of doing a good Work; or if 'tis poſſible for him to do Ten Millions, yet the vast heap ſhall not be able to make the leaſt Step to advance him one Inch towards the happiness of this Life. The Test ſavagely determines, tho the Papist has the Fidelity of an unfall'n Angel, the King ſhall never truſt him; tho the Valour
of

of *Aeobles*, his Prince shan't give him a Commission ; and tho' he had the Wisdom of *Solomon*, yet he shan't come near to advise him. What can be more inhumane, what more barbarous, than to rob our Brethren at once of their Birthright and their Blessing, and to ruine them on Earth, because they take another way of going to Heaven ? As if the Sacramental Bread were design'd to rob Men of their vital Morsel : As if the Cup of Blessing in order to the next Life, was instituted for Mankind's Curse in this, and the Blood of the Blessed Jesus flow'd to destroy those whom 'twas mercifully shed to save !

What makes the vast difference between the Papist and other Dissenters, and us ? Are some of us Loyal ? So are some of them. Are we able to advise His Majesty ? They have an equal, if not a transcendent Talent that way. Do we deserve Preferment, and not they ? It lies in the King's Breast which Party merits most. Have some of us been conspicuous for our Allegiance ? They are our Equals. Have some of their Religion been fatal to Kings ? So have some of ours. Have they been Plotters ? So have we. Have we been instrumental in preserving this King ? They were so for the Safety of the last. Did Men of another Communion bring the Royal Martyr to the Block ? Many of our Church began the fatal Quarrel. Have they been sanguineously cruel of late ? Lo ! by keeping up the Tests we are so now. Our Reputation is checker'd, as well as theirs ; the Proportion of the Black and the White of Vice and Virtue stands equal in either : we have all been faulty, we have all gone out of the way. Let us then return, by being charitable to each other, and obedient to His Majesty.

If it be here objected, That the Dissenters Principles are inconsistent with Government : Who is better able to judge of that, than He that sits at the Helm ? If it be said,

said, That their Religion is inconsistent with the true Worship of God. Charity should believe, were they convinc'd of it, they would soon retract their Error. And since every one of us aims at one eternal End, since we all own one God and one Lord Jesus Christ, Charity would believe a possibility of attaining the End, altho' in the use of different Ways. The Arrow that is shot Compass may as certainly hit the White, as that which is directed straight. The same City may be as surely entered by him that walks o're a Mountain, or through a Desert or a Wood to it, as by another that travels o're the straight and even Valley. And Charity would believe, that the Crown of Heaven might possibly be obtain'd by the round-about Runner, as surely as by him that thinks he more advantageously casts his Ground; especially if we believe a possibility of the Salvation of the Apostles before they believed the Doctrine of the Resurrection.

But suppose the Errors of our Brethren were never so inconsistent with Government; once more I must observe, That a rough Method is not probable to convert 'em: For Conversion is usually wrought by the softest means. The Mildness of the Converte[r] is most apt to melt the Soul of the Erroneous; he must be soothed, before he can take a new Impression; and by the gentle warmth of Love be made to relent, before he can be in capacity of being cast into a new Form: And therefore the Frost and Horror of the Test must be very unsuitable for this purpose.

Seriously, We ought to comply with the King in the Repeal of the Tests and Penal Laws, if we consider the Interest of the Church. There are none that are truly of the Church of England, but are for the Doctrine of Passive Obedience; and if so, they must grant, that the National establish'd Church

Church can be no longer such than the Supreme Power will have it so : And therefore the Church of *England* ought to please the King, if she would her self be banget pleas'd in her Establishment. She ought not imperiously to think her Station infallibly unprecious, nor rudely to question the King's Word, but reverently to obey his just Desires. How extremely ill do's it look to question the Word of a King, and of such a King too? I'm sure, if she had given her Word for the performance of any thing, and its Veracity should be doubted, she would think she had good reason to be desparately displeased. And therefore she not doing in this Particular as she would be done by, she may give occasion to be rewarded by her own Measures ; and if she persists to question the King's Word, the King may justly suspect her Loyalty. When the King has given his Royal Word for my Security, if I then should doubt my Safety, I may be adjudg'd by no means to deserve it. Not to rely upon my Prince's Promise, is to forfeit the expected Support ; and whosoever scoffingly calls His Majesties merciful Indulgence only a Scaffolding, may perhaps very soon come to deserve a more dishonourable Death than is usually executed upon the Fabrick he mentions. And therefore if the Church of *England* would be secure in her own Liberty, 'tis not only her Duty, but her Interest, to promote and confirm that of others. I know we pretend to merit much, by obstructing the Bill of Exclusion : Let us not then destroy our former Desert by our present Errors ; for 'tis possible that our Righteousness may be forgot, and in the Sin that we sin we may die.

None certainly can be against the King's Inclinations now, but those who would be now for His Exclusion ; for he that contradicts his Prince's Inclinations even in things Indifferent, tacitly insinuates, that he would not haye such a Man to rule over him ; and he that contradicts

dicts what by His Majesty and His wise Council is adjudg'd to be for the Strength and Peace of the Nation, is no longer a Friend, but a stubborn Enemy to the Government : For his Eye must necessarily be evil because the King's is good. Common Gratitude methinks should oblige our Obedience, not only in this, but in all other Affairs. His Majesty has graciously confirm'd to us all that we possess ; and shall we, like *Jesu-ran*, when we remain fat, kick against him that makes us so, and in the height of our Plenty envy our poor Brethren the small Crums which fall from our Table ? Many of our Church have writ, spake, and inveigh'd against what His Majesty would have done ; yet He daily forgives us : And when our Lord and Master hath forgiven us, should we in return take our Fellow-subjects by the Throats ; and when he is merciful to us, resolve to be cruel to the rest of his Servants ? His Majesty has promis'd to be our Defence, if we please ; and shall we foolishly and ungratefully reject His Safeguard ? Shall we refuse His Protection, but desire one Attribute of the Prerogative, *viz.* the Supreme Power of the Sword, that we may destroy others, whilst we protect our selves ? And when He has promis'd to be our Shepherd, shall we refuse to be harmless Sheep, but expect to be made Porcupines, and cover'd all o're with Armour ?

Let it not be recorded in our Annals, That we were lowly then only when we were oppres'd, inclin'd to Pity but in those days only when we could not strike ; and that the establish'd Church, when it could not wound others, was *Felo de se*, and turn'd militant against it self. For 'tis certain, that whilst we stand up for an Arbitrary Safety, we seek and pursue our own Ruine ; since a common Understanding may easily foretel, that no such Pride can continue long without the attendance of a Fall ; and that by obstinate Methods taken for our

Safety,

Safety, to the pity of our Friends, and the triumph of our Enemies, we shall find our Security at last in the worst sense, and experience our Church to be sure and safe, by being dead and gone.

Let it not be said of us who are for Passive Obedience, That we intend passively to obey the King only so long as he would permit us actively to afflict our Fellow-Subjects; That we would accept him with his Throne and dreadful Scepter, but not with the soft Plumes of his Mercy-seat; That we approv'd of Majesty, not when 'twas cloth'd with its Forgiveness, but its Terror; and desir'd it to approach the rest of the Nation as *Jupiter* did *Semele*, with that Thunder which is certain to make its Peace an Abort. Let no Sons of the Church of *England* presume henceforth with a Confessorian Boldnes to call His Sacred Majesty, who is a zealous Worshipper of the True God, an Idolater: Let none dare impiously to name the King, who adores his Saviour, a Wafer-worshipper: For this is to treat a Prince with less Civility than is given to his Subjects; 'tis no less than to spit rudely in the Face of Majesty, to endeavour to justify the King out of the Affections of his People, and to give our selves the Lie, when we do these things, and yet declare our selves to be of the Church of *England*, which obliges us to the Obedience of Words and Thoughts, as well as of Actions. And well it is for such a sort of Men, that they liv'd not in Queen *Elizabeth's* time. Let no Sons of the Church of *England* irrationally and uncharitably believe a Popish Prince uncapable of Repentance, and be tempted to pray for his Destruction; for 'tis expressly contrary to the Doctrine of the Blessed Jesus: It might provoke a Prince to put a Regulator to such Devotions, since, when such Men come to the Publick Congregations, they must seem to pray for the King, when they pray agaist him; and I declare, upon a Supposition

position of their incapacity of Repentance 100, and that there were no Laws in force to punish such treacherable Overtures; it might tempt all honest and loyal Men, for the good of the Church and State, to wish that such a kind of Church-Votaries would exactly copy all the Actions of the wretched *Judas*, after he had barbarously betrayed his gracious Lord and Master. For, with such Men, to love and honour the King, is to be an Apostate; to love and be kind to our Neighbour, is to be highly irreligious; and to endeavour to confirm the Reconciliation of the King to His Subjects, and to create a lasting Friendship of the King's Subjects among themselves, is to be an Enemy to true Peace. With such, a morose Stubbornness against, is to be Loyal to His Majesty: Saucy to affront the King, is to be a True Protestant; and Disobedience to the Father of our Country, is a manifestation of being a true Son of the Mother-Church. But let all those who are truly Religious and Loyal, encourage themselves in the God of Peace, and in our merciful Saviour who is the Prince of Peace, and in His Sacred Majesty who is truly a King of Peace; and being so encouraged, let 'em go about the great Work of Peace; and if they are poised as for being Loyal, let 'em know, that 'tis a Mark of Favour. To be stigmatiz'd for being thus peaceable, is to wear the Character of Heaven; and tho' they fail of the designed End in this World, they can't miss the Reward of the Peacemaker in the next world.

Seventy. We ought to obey the King in the Repeal of the Tests and Penal Laws, if we consider the Duties we owe to our Neighbours.

'Tis at once ungenerous and unjust, to monopolize the Common Good, to engross the King to our selves, and to repine that all the Vital Spirit flows not from the Sacred Head to one particular Member; since *Judah* ought to have a proportionable Share in her *David*, as well as contending *Israel*.

Where

Where is the Kindness to our Neighbour, when we desire to give Life to those Laws which are certain Death to our Brethren? The King, like Heaven, designs that His Sun-shine shall be darted on all, the Just as the Unjust; shall we then raise a Storm to obstruct the refreshing Beams? Or shall the Church assume the Nature of a Burning-glass, and so contract the extended Rays, as to transmit 'em to the Conflagration of Dissenters? The King, like Heaven, designs His Drops of Mercy shall fall on all around; let none therefore shew themselves so enviously covetous, as to wish the fruitful Moisture were all confin'd to his own Channel. No; let us consider, that even those whom we think Prodigals may expect the fatted Calf from the merciful Father of their Country, as well as we, who too haughtily imagine that we never went astray. Let us not curse whom the King designs to bless, nor call for Fire from Heaven to consume whom He graciously means to warm: And when, like His Saviour, He comes to save Mens Lives, far be it from us to seek to destroy 'em, and that by those Laws and Tests which some have very ill compar'd to Samson's Hair; but they may very well, in time, be resembled to Samson's Lion, out of which no Sweetness can be expected till they lay down their Terror and are dead.

If we would do as we would be done by, we should not lade Men with Burdens which we are not willing to bear our selves. When we are well didd'd, why should we desire to strip our thred bare Brethren? Or why should we think it reasonable to desire our Neighbours to lye still, that they may be the more conveniently beaten?

Let it no more be said, That whilst Rome, like Saul, has slain its thousands, the Church of England has extinguis'd its ten-thousands. Let it no more be said, That we have separated the Inhabitants from their Native Country;

Country ; separated earning Parents from their weeping Offspring, the loving Husband from the lamenting Wife, the Orphan's Morsel from his hungry Stomach, and divided the poor Widow from her little Handful and her remaining Cruise. Let it not be said, That we endeavour to out-do the Miseries of *France*: For the Unhappiness of the *Hugonots* was finish'd in short; but that of the Dissenters, by keeping up the Tests and Penal Laws, must be endless. Let it not be said, That 'tis not so much the Union as the Undoing of our Neighbours, that we seek after; that 'tis not *Diana*, but her Shrines, that we regard; and consequently, that we our selves are the Buyers and Sellers who deserve the Whip for the clearing of the Temple.

Eighthly, We ought to concur for the Repealing of the Tests and Penal Laws, if we would be kind to our Country.

'Tis not the diversity of Religious Professions in a Kingdom that make a Nation unhappy, as I observ'd before; but the Sanguinary Cruelty for such a Variety. 'Twas not the nature of *Joseph*'s many-colour'd Coat, but the Malice of his Brethren, that separated him from his lamenting Father. And when a Nation is separated from her Common Father, such a Division is not caus'd by the various Complexion of her Religion, but by the Disobedience and Ingratitude of her Sons: For we are assur'd from History, and our own Experience, that where the Complexion of Religion is as various as that of the Rainbow, like a Sacred Rainbow too, it keeps the World there from a Deluge of Blood, and an Inundation of Poverty: For nothing depopulates a Country like the severe Endeavour for the Uniformity of its Inhabitants. When press'd by the Heat of Penal Laws, they quickly fly away like Mercury, and such a Mercury too, which carrys along the radiant Metal and gaudy Wealth in its departure;

departure; or if they be hindred from flight, for want
of Vent they commonly burst the Vessel, and rend by
Discord the Kingdom which contains 'em.

But, say some, if the Tests and Penal Laws be taken
off, they may be renewed against our selves, and so our
own Cannon will be turned upon us.

To this I answer, If a Security be possible to be made
by King and Parliament, we have the Royal Word it
shall be done. The King of Himself might give His
People this Blessing of Peace for His Life, and very much
longer; yet when He designs a more lasting Happiness,
He will not effect it without our helping Hands, and,
like Heaven it self, resolves not to save us without our
own Concurrence. By which general Concurrence, the
general Security must be strong: For when the Papist,
the Church of England, and all Dissenters are jointly and
equally concern'd, like so many Stones contributring to
an Arch, the Fabrick must be sure. One will ballance
the other, and so evenly, that, like a known Example in
Mathematicks, Where three Pieces are put together, 'tis
impossible that one without the rest should fall.

There are some who are for nulling the Penal Laws in
relation to some Disleaters only: But the Partiality is
unreasonable; for 'tis to be easie to some, that the Seve-
rity might fall with a greater weight on the rest,

There are others that are for the taking away both Tests
and Penal Laws; but they would only have it for the pre-
sent Reign. To such I answer, Besides the taking notice of
the Impertinence of the Concession since the King of him-
self has Power to do it, there is an horrid Uncharitableness
in it; for, to take away the Tests but *pro tempore*, is only
so to take 'em away, that they may certainly return;
and to plant 'em as it were under ground, that they may
spring up in the expected time with a greater exuberancy:
And then where is my sincere Charity to my Neigh-

bear, when I design to ruin him hereafter, tho' my Hands
must be discredited up for the present? When is my
Charity, when I forbear to set Fire to the fatal Train
now, but leave it ready, that I may the more securely
blow him up in the days to come? And where is my
Christian Temper, when I consent to let the Lion sleep
in this King's Reign, that he may rouze more strongly
and devour the innocent in the next? No, yet us not
rob our Countrymen of their Rights in this World, be-
cause we think their Opinions in the wrong for the next.
Let us not imagine that they cannot be good Subjects to
the King in Temporals, because some of them own another
Supreme in Spirituals. Nor let us, against all Experi-
ence and Reason, conclude, That France and Spain have
no good Subjects, nor Absolute Monarchs, because we
know they are perfect and profest'd Catholicks.

To draw towards a Conclusion therefore. If we would
be grateful to the King, let us divest our selves of all mo-
tive Roughness, and, like polish'd Bodies, reflect back
those Beams of Clemency which He daily sheds upon
us. If we would be merciful to our Neighbours, let us
cur the cruel Knots which our own Menes have kept too
long tied. If we would be kind to our selves, let us not
provoke His Majesty to take away that Pleasure
which we refuse to allow others.

Are we afraid of Poverty? The King assures us, 'Tis
possible to be happy, without being pernicious. Ought
the King to be afraid of Popish Recusants? He need then
be afraid of himself and his faithful Friends. Are the
Laws that ought to be repard wholsom and rational?
What can be more cruel and absurd, than to oblige a
Prince to prosecute his Friends for Traytors, to suppose
him a Foe to the Kingdom, and his Heinous Offen-
der against the Crown it were? In the Testimony? It
is concluded to have own'd its Life to the Breath of Per-
jury,

jury, to have grown by Currents of guiltless Blood, to be design'd against our Sovereign, and can only be preserv'd from death by thole who must err in their Charity and their Understandings.

Is His Majesty not to be believ'd? He has given the greatest Demonstrations of his Veracity imaginable; and those who distrust him, after all, may justly expect the Merits of a stubborn Unbeliever. Is it impossible to have an agreeable Prospect of Affairs, if the Tests be repeal'd? Set but aside the Mist of Pride, Interest, and Malice; and all will be fair as the serene Peace which we seek. Are Popery and Protestantancy inconsistent in a Nation? Experience arrests the contrary; and if as different as Jacob and Esau, yet, like those Twins, they might be nourish'd in a very narrow compass. Would we grant as much Liberty as is in the Low-Countries? Then let the Tests be repeal'd, which deprive Men of the Honour of the Court, and the Profit of Employments.

Can't the Church and State be preserv'd without Tests and Penal Laws? How were they maintain'd before their Making, and how have they flourisht since their Dispensation? Ought the Laws already made to remain? No Laws ought longer to remain, than they are for the support of that Peace for which they were design'd: But they ought rather to expire, when their Establishment threatens the Destruction of our Peace and our Loyalty. Do's the Dissent enjoy Toleration and Preference from his Prince, and therefore needs no further Security? May not the Catholicks ask you then, If you are secur'd of your Life to day, what need you an Assurance for to-morrow? Or, If you are secur'd of your own Life, what need you a Cease for your dear Posterity? Finally, when these Clouds appear, be our Fears and Jealousies be laid aside, and fear no Evils, since God and the King say, *Let there be Light.* When the King sends out the

the peaceful Dore, let our turbulent Waters abate, and let the Olive branch be return'd to the Sacred Pilor. Like the Son in the Gospel; who refus'd to do his Father's Will at first, but afterwards repented and went about it, for our Eyes after all be so open'd, as to obey his Majesty; that those Laws which ow'd their forc'd Generation to preternatural Heats and Mistake, may be speedily destroy'd by a cool and sedate Understanding.

And now I expect for this Publick Discourse to be call'd what I have often been styl'd for the Loyalty of my Private Converse, to wit, *A Papist*. But if to love and honour my God, and to preach the Practice and Doctrine of my Saviour, be to be a Papist, I am one. If to preach Allegiance to my Prince, and Peace to my Brethren, be to be a Papist, I am one. Or if to entreat the Church of *England* to love her self, and to act according to her own Principles, be to be of the Church of *Rome*, I confess I am so. For I declare, in what I have said, I have only sincerely discharg'd my Conscience, which would never suffer me through the whole Course of my Life to be obstinately Irreligious towards my Maker, to be indecently irreverent to my Saviour, to be in the least Disloyal to my King, or Uncharitable to my Neighbour. For the preservation of which Conscience, I here declare, I will be content to be a Beggar, or ev'n Nothing upon the face of the Earth, rather than by its Vastation to become the greatest Subject in the World. And all who know me, (and I have the happiness of speaking to a great number who do) know that I sincerely speak the Truth: By which, if with the Apostle, I am become any Mans Enemy, I must be forc'd to tell him, That True Religion is the consequent True Loyalty, & other too precious Considerations for the Purchase of a Serious Friendship.

FINIS.

